



DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

September 3, 2002

Dear Superintendents:

In many ways, it seems like September 11, 2001, happened only yesterday. Even now hardly a day goes by without some reference to the horrific events of that day. In some aspects, life has returned to normal for our students--school, homework, sports, and dances. But in other aspects, the world will never be the same for any of us. September 11 was a seminal event, much like Pearl Harbor or President Kennedy's assassination. Our children face new realities unlike those of previous generations.

As we approach September 11, I know that many of you are thinking about how you can best reflect on the events of that day. The course you choose will obviously depend on your own school community and its needs, including the ages of the students you serve. To help educators the California Department of Education has created a Web site of resources, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/ssp/sept11.htm>. I am also sending you the following list of other Web sites that have resources and activities about September 11, as well as about civic responsibility, and I hope you find this information useful:

National Education Association Health Information Network

<http://neahin.org/programs/schoolsafety/september11/materials/lessonhome.htm>

National School Public Relations Association

http://www.nspra.org/main_prarticles.htm

National Association of School Psychologists

<http://www.nasponline.org/NEAT/911memorial.html>

Public Broadcasting Service

<http://www.pbs.org/insidepbs/news/remember911.html>

The White House

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/national-anthem/>

Education World

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson244.shtml

Bill of Rights Institute

www.BillofRightsInstitute.org

Freedom's Answer

www.freedomsanswer.net

Undoubtedly, we will all spend September 11 reflecting on the past. For many of us it will also be a day to share hopes for the future. When we are thunderstruck by the events of history, we can find solace in the knowledge that--as educators--we play an important role in teaching tolerance and understanding. We know that when we look at our students, we are looking at our nation's future.

We must teach our children respect for different religions, different races, and different cultures even as we teach them to honor America and her values. In the final analysis, that is one of the most enduring lessons that this great nation must continue to labor for--"liberty and justice for all."

Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of California's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Delaine Eastin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "E".

DELAINE EASTIN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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